

Animals and Society



American Sociological Association

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ANIMALS & SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR – AMY FITZGERALD

Dear Section Members,

I think it is fair to say that 2009 was an encouraging year for our section and our field of study. We had a wonderful paper session and reception – both of which were well attended – at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco this past summer. It was wonderful to see those of you who were able to attend!

The year was also marked by an increase in the amount of attention paid to the study of animals and society. New publications, calls for papers, and academic courses emerged. Of particular note, a series of articles on what is variously referred to as “animal studies” and “human-animal studies,” was published in the October 23, 2009 edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. *The Chronicle* boasts a readership of 350,000 and is promoted as “the top destination for news, advice, and jobs for people in academe,” so the coverage devoted to our field on their pages was significant indeed.

An article penned by Jennifer Howard, entitled “Creature Consciousness: Animal Studies Tests the Boundaries between Animal and Animal—and between Academic and Advocate” specifically cites our Section as an example of the ways in which the social scientific study of non-human animals is enjoying increasing institutional support. Collectively, the articles highlight the progress that has been made in the field and identify some tensions that exist, notably between scholarship and advocacy.

I think that our Section has done an admirable job of trying to bridge the seeming chasm between scholarship and advocacy. We have been successful in drawing together those with varied interests in the field, increasing its visibility, and promoting further research in the area.

Another article in the series, by Jessica Pierce and Marc Bekoff, begins by declaring “Animals are ‘in.’ This might well be called the decade of the animal.” Our Section is at the cutting edge of these developments. It is an exciting time. And it provides us with an opportunity to enhance the strength of our Section by increasing our membership. (More members means more paper sessions at the Annual Meetings!) So please spread the word about our Section to your colleagues and students, encourage them to become members, and remember to renew your membership for the new year.

All my best to you and yours in the new year,

Amy Fitzgerald,

Section Chair

ASA ANNUAL MEETING IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA – AUGUST 14-17, 2010 – CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia from August 14–17th. We will have one Regular Session and one Section Session. The call for papers are as follows:

Regular Session, “Human-Animal Interaction”:

Session Organizer: Tracey Harris, Cape Breton University

Section on Animals and Society Session, “Cutting-Edge Research on Animals and Society”:

Session Organizer: Amy J. Fitzgerald, University of Windsor

There is an ever-growing amount of empirical and theoretical work in the area of animals and society. As this area of inquiry proliferates and matures, it is useful to examine works at the cutting-edge of these pursuits. This session will showcase academic work that pushes our thinking in new directions and further illustrates the importance of attending to non-human animals within the discipline of sociology.

Please remember that paper submission is online at asanet.org and the deadline for submissions is **January 13, 2010**.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – ANNUAL AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP & DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

Award for Distinguished Graduate Student Scholarship:

The Animal & Society section announces its 2010 Award for Distinguished Graduate Student Scholarship. Papers may be empirical or theoretical, and they may be on any aspect of animals and society. To be eligible, a paper must not be published, accepted for publication, or under review for publication. Papers which have been presented at a professional meeting or which have been submitted for presentation at a professional conference are eligible. Jointly authored works are eligible, as long as all authors have student status. Papers must be no longer than 25 pages, including all notes, references, and tables. When submitting your paper, please include a brief letter from your advisor certifying your graduate student status.

Papers must be emailed by February 1st, 2010 to: Angela Mertig, Awards Committee Chair, amertig@mtsu.edu

Award for Distinguished Scholarship:

The 2010 award will be given for distinguished scholarship in the form of a journal article to an author whose work makes a significant empirical or theoretical contribution to the sociological understanding of animals and society. The work must have been published within the 2008 or 2009 calendar years. To nominate an article (self-nominations are acceptable), please provide the author(s), the title of the article, the relevant journal information, the publication date, and a two page letter outlining why you believe this work is a substantial contribution to the field.

Please forward with a PDF copy of the nominated article to: Angela Mertig, Awards Committee Chair, amertig@mtsu.edu

CALLING ALL EDITORS – WE NEED YOU!

Interested in editing this newsletter? You're in luck – we are looking for a new editor! The newsletter is sent out twice a year (once in the fall/winter and again in the spring/summer). If you are interested in taking on this important & enjoyable task starting with the fall 2010 issue, please contact Amy Fitzgerald, Section Chair, afitz@uwindsor.ca or current Newsletter Editor, Tracey Harris, tracey_harris@cbu.ca

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now open for the following positions in the Animals and Society Section:

Three Faculty Council Members

One Student Council Member

One Chair-Elect for the Section

The current Section Officers are as follows:

Chair: Amy J. Fitzgerald (2009-2010)

Chair-Elect: Tracey Smith-Harris (2009-2010)

Past Chair: Brian Lowe (2009-2010)

Council Members:

Angela Mertig (2007-2010)

Colin Jerolmack (2007-2010)

Helene Lawson (2007-2010)

Elizabeth Cherry (2008-2011)

Colter Ellis, student representative (2009-2012)

Nominations are **due by December 30, 2009**. Self-nominations are acceptable. Please send nominations to Amy Fitzgerald at afitz@uwindsor.ca

MEMBER'S NEWS

- Ana Cristina Ramirez recently published her book *De humanos y otros animales*. 213 pp., illus., bibliogrs. México: Editorial Dríada (ed_driada@yahoo.com).
- Amy Fitzgerald's article "'It's a Horrible Coincidence': Corporate Responsibility and the 2007 Pet Food Recall" appeared in *Critical Criminology* (vol. 17, pp. 195-215) and an article she wrote with two other section members, Linda Kalof and Thomas Dietz, entitled "Slaughterhouses and Increased Crime Rates: An Empirical Analysis of Spillover from 'The Jungle' into the Surrounding Community" was published in *Organization and Environment* (vol. 22, pp. 158-184).
- Colin Jerolmack's article entitled "Humans, animals and play: Theorizing interaction when intersubjectivity is problematic" appears in the latest issue of *Sociological Theory* (v. 27, no. 4).

CALL FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS – A NEW BOOK SERIES ON SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Announcing a new book series “Solving Social Problems.” Series Editor: Bonny Berry, Director of the Social Problems Research Group, USA

Solving Social Problems provides a forum for the description and measurement of social problems, with a keen focus on the concrete remedies proposed for their solution. The series takes an international perspective, exploring social problems in various parts of the world, with the central concern being always their possible remedy. Work is welcomed on subjects as diverse as environmental damage, terrorism, economic disparities and economic devastation, poverty, inequalities, domestic assaults and sexual abuse, health care, natural disasters, labour inequality, animal abuse, crime, and mental illness and its treatment. In addition to recommending solutions to social problems, the books in this series are theoretically sophisticated, exploring previous discussions of the issues in question, examining other attempts to resolve them, and adopting and discussing methodologies that are commonly used to measure social problems.

Proposed solutions may be framed as changes in policy or practice, or more broadly as social change and social movement. Solutions may be reflective of ideology, but are always pragmatic and detailed, explaining the means by which the suggested solutions might be achieved. If you would like to submit a proposal for this series, please email: the Series Editor, Bonny Berry: solving@socialproblems.org or the Commissioning Editor, Neil Jordan: njordan@ashgatepublishing.com

ANIMALS & SOCIETY INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES FOURTH ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP

The ASI's fourth annual Human-Animal Studies Fellowship will be held May 24-July 2 at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. As before, this interdisciplinary program will enable seven scholars to pursue individual research in residence through mentorship, guest lectures, and scholarly exchange. The host faculty will be Jacque (Jody) Emel, professor of the Graduate School of Geography at Clark, and adjunct host Susan McHugh, professor of English at the University of New England.

Applicants must possess a Ph.D., J.D., M.S.W. or equivalent, or be a doctoral student at the dissertation stage; have a commitment to advancing research in Human-Animal Studies; be actively engaged, during the fellowship program, in a research project that culminates in a journal article, book, or other scholarly presentation; and submit a follow-up report six months after the fellowship's completion.

Topics of particular interest for this year's program include human-animal relationships in science and technology; animal issues in legal studies; the relation between human violence and animal abuse; human-animal relationships in agriculture; and human-companion animal relationships.

Each of the seven selected scholars will be awarded a stipend of \$2,000 to help cover travel, housing, books and other expenses.

The application deadline is January 31, 2010; those selected will be notified in March. For a complete list of application details, click [here](#); for more information, contact Margo DeMello at fellowshipapplication@animalsandsociety.org.

Please remember to renew your membership in our section when you renew your American Sociological Association membership! The number of members determines the number of sessions we get at the Annual Meeting so it is very important that we maintain (and hopefully increase) our membership base.

CONFERENCE ON “THE ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY” – CALL-FOR-PAPERS

Call-for Papers for “The Ecological Community” a inaugural ALECC Conference, August 19-21, 2010, Cape Breton University, Sydney, Nova Scotia

The Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada, in conjunction with Cape Breton University, invites submissions for its inaugural conference to be held in August 2010, on the theme of “The Ecological Community.” Proposals may take the form of individual papers, pre-formed panels, workshops, literary readings, or roundtables. We welcome interdisciplinary approaches, graduate student work, scholarly research outside the academic humanities, and proposals from writers, artists, and activists working beyond the university system.

ALECC is a growing organization of writers, academics of all stripes, and individuals passionate about the environmental arts and humanities (see <http://www.alecc.ca>). Our three-day conference will also include field trips to sites of ecological and cultural interest in the area around Cape Breton University, such as the Sydney Tar Ponds reclamation site, Cape Breton Highlands National Park, the Glace Bay Miner’s Museum, and the Cabot Trail, along with opportunities for birding and botanizing.

Our theme invites participants to investigate the current state of communities and to meditate on things as they might be – how might humans live sustainably in an ecological community?

While we are open to proposals that touch on any aspect of the conference theme, we particularly solicit proposals for papers and literary readings related to the following topics:

- The relationship between biodiversity and cultural diversity
- Human and more-than-human communities: mammals, fish, birds, plants . . .
- Rural and urban senses of community: farms/ranches, reservations, villages, towns, cities
- Sense of place / the senses in place
- Bodies, genders, desires and community
- The fate of community in sites of economic restructuring and environmental conflict
- Environmental reclamation and sense of place
- Relationships among scientific and artistic communities
- The wild, the feral, and the tame
- Languages, dialects, accents, and rhetorics of community
- Community-based activism
- Local knowledge in a global world
- Digital solipsism vs. digital communities
- Community healing in the face of disease, toxicity and disaster

Proposals for individual papers or literary readings should be 500 words in length; pre-formed panel proposals should be 300 words in length (with individual 500-word proposals for each paper); and proposals for roundtables or workshops should be 750 words in length, including a tentative list of speakers where possible. Send your proposal to: Dr. Richard Pickard, Dept. of English, University of Victoria, PO Box 3070 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3W1; but preferably to rpickard@uvic.ca in PDF format.

All proposals must be received by January 30, 2010.

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COUNCIL MEMBERS & TERMS

Angela Mertig (2007-2010)

Colin Jerolmack (2007-2010)

Helene Lawson (2007-2010)

Elizabeth Cherry (2008-2011)

Colter Ellis (2009-2012)



Animals & Society Section Officers

Chair: Amy Fitzgerald

Chair-Elect: Tracey Harris

Past Chair: Brian Lowe

Secretary-Treasurer: Leslie Irvine

Membership Committee Chair:
Angela Mertig

Nomination Committee Chair:
Lisa Anne Zilney

Webmaster: Helene Lawson (for
submissions, please email
lawson@pitt.edu)

Newsletter Editor: Tracey Harris

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